E/2003/42
E/CN.18/2003/13

United Nations

United Nations Forum on Forests

Report on the third session (15 March 2002 and 26 May to 6 June 2003)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2003
Supplement No. 22

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United Nations • New York, 2003

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ISSN 1728-0095

Summary

The United Nations Forum on Forests held its third session from 26 May to 6 June 2003 in Geneva. The Forum reached agreement on the composition, terms of reference, scheduling and reporting of three ad hoc expert groups: (i) on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting; (ii) on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; and (iii) on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests, an issue pending from the Forum's second session.

The Forum made policy decisions on the implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action relating to: (i) economic aspects of forests; (ii) forest health and productivity; and (iii) maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs. Welcoming initiatives on the implementation of the proposals for action, the Forum urged countries, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and major groups to continue their efforts to implement them. The Forum also took decisions on: (i) enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination; (ii) strengthening of the secretariat; (iii) voluntary reporting format; and (iv) the use of the Trust Fund for daily subsistence allowances for representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The Forum held an interactive multi-stakeholder dialogue among major groups, government delegations and member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The Forum also organized two panel discussions this year, namely on: (i) economic aspects of forests; and (ii) regional processes and initiatives.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution
Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2000/35, particularly paragraph 4 of that resolution establishing the United Nations Forum on Forests as a subsidiary body of the Council composed of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies with full and equal participation,

Also recalling paragraph 6 of the same resolution inviting voluntary extrabudgetary contributions in support of the participation of representatives of developing countries that are not members of the Commission on Sustainable Development in sessions of the Forum and its subsidiary bodies,

Further recalling paragraph 16 of the same resolution calling upon interested donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations to make voluntary financial contributions to a trust fund in order to facilitate the continuing work of the Forum and the secretariat,

Taking note of the report by the secretariat at its third session on the status of the secretariat, and the views expressed by many countries on the need for enhanced participation of Member States that are developing countries, least developed countries or countries with economies in transition in the sessions of the Forum,

Noting that the Trust Fund is an important resource for carrying out activities to support the work of the Forum and to ensure the increased participation of representatives of developing countries, least developed countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as experts from those countries, in the sessions of the Forum, country-led initiatives and ad hoc expert groups,

Acknowledging with appreciation the voluntary extrabudgetary contributions made by a number of donor Governments to the Trust Fund to support the Forum and its secretariat, and recognizing the need for additional resources,

1. *Invites* donor Governments, institutions and other organizations to provide contributions to the Trust Fund;

2. *Decides* that support to participants from developing countries, with priority to the least developed countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, may be provided from the Trust Fund for travel and daily subsistence from funds designated for that purpose.

B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

2. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind paragraph 4 (i) of its resolution 2000/35, decides that the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests will be held in Geneva from 3 to 14 May 2004.

Draft decision II
Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its third session and provisional agenda for its fourth session

The Economic and Social Council,

(a) Takes note of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its third session;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum as set out below.

Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Status of the Secretariat.
4. Implementation of the proposal for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
   - (a) Progress in implementation:
     - (i) Traditional forest-related knowledge;
     - (ii) Forest-related scientific knowledge;
     - (iii) Social and cultural aspects of forests;
     - (iv) Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions;
     - (v) Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management;
   - (b) Means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management) as a cross-cutting issue, considered in the context of sub-items 4 (a), (i) (v) above.
5. Common items for each session:
   - (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue;
   - (b) Enhanced cooperation;

(c) Country experiences and lessons learned;

(d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation;

(e) Intersessional work;

(f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting;

(g) Promoting public participation;

(h) National forest programmes;

(i) Trade;

(j) Enabling environment.

6. Other matters.

7. Dates and venue of the fifth session of the Forum.

8. Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Forum.

9. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourth session.

Draft decision III
Intersessional work by ad hoc expert groups

The Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind paragraph 4 (k) of its resolution 2000/35 and recalling the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests adopted by the Forum in its resolution 1/1, in particular paragraphs 23 and 24:

(a) *Decides* to establish three ad hoc expert groups to support the work of the Forum, as set out in the annex to the present decision;

(b) *Invites* each of the five United Nations regional groups to nominate to the Secretariat six country experts for the ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting, and six country experts for the ad hoc expert group on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, by 15 September 2003;

(c) *Invites* member States of the United Nations Forum on Forests to nominate to the Secretariat a country expert for the ad hoc expert group on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests, by 31 March 2004;

(d) *Decides* that, to ensure efficiency, transparency and balanced reflection of the range of views, the following preparations should be performed for the meeting of the ad hoc expert group meeting on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests:

(i) Presentation of factual and technical information, including updated information on existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests and that of other relevant organizations and agreements, including multilateral environmental agreements and regional conventions and processes;

(ii) Compilation of the progress made and catalysts and obstacles encountered by member States and Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations in implementing the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action and the decisions and resolutions of sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(iii) Presentation and detailed description of a range of options, including their legal, financial and institutional modalities.

The member States of the United Nations Forum on Forests are invited to submit their views on (i), (ii) and (iii) above. The members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are invited to provide information on (i) and (ii) above. These views and information should be provided to the Forum secretariat by 31 January 2004.

Accordingly, the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat shall compile the views submitted by the member States and the information provided by the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in preparation for the ad hoc expert group meeting.

The Bureau of the United Nations Forum on Forests for its fourth session shall keep member States appraised of the progress made in the preparation of documentation for the ad hoc expert group. The Bureau will undertake consultations with the member States by convening a one-day informal meeting in New York immediately after a meeting of the Bureau prior to the fourth session of the Forum.

The United Nations Forum on Forests will receive an information note at its fourth session on progress in the preparation of documentation for the ad hoc expert group meeting. This note is neither subject to discussion nor negotiation in the Forum.

The official documentation for the consideration of the ad hoc expert group shall be made available to countries 60 days in advance of the meeting of the ad hoc expert group.

Annex

A
Ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting

Scope and work programme

1. The ad hoc expert group shall provide scientific and technical advice to the United Nations Forum on Forests on approaches and mechanisms for the work of the Forum on monitoring, assessment and reporting. Its work should be undertaken within the context of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and relevant resolutions adopted by the Forum at its sessions, and should also consider, inter alia, related intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals for action and the outcomes of Forum sessions, including its reports.

Tasks

2. For monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress in implementing IPF/IFF proposals for action and progress towards sustainable forest management, the ad hoc expert group will:

(a) Assess existing reporting requirements under relevant international conventions, processes, instruments and organizations in order to identify strengths, weaknesses and duplication in reporting processes, taking into account the relevant work undertaken by Collaborative Partnership on Forests members;

(b) Assess existing monitoring and assessment procedures in international conventions, processes, instruments and organizations related to forests in order to identify strengths, weaknesses and duplications, taking into account the relevant work undertaken by Collaborative Partnership on Forests members;

(c) Propose ways for the Forum to monitor and assess progress, based on:

(i) Voluntary reporting by countries on implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action;

(ii) Voluntary reporting by Collaborative Partnership on Forests members and other relevant organizations and international and regional processes on implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action;

(iii) Ongoing work on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management being undertaken at the national, regional and international levels;

(iv) Existing data and information, as well as reporting systems and structures;

(d) Propose an outline for voluntary reporting to the Forum;

(e) Recommend options for drawing upon the reports provided to Forum sessions to identify trends and lessons learned;

(f) Develop recommendations on how to build capacity in countries, including the increase of resources for that goal, for monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the special needs of developing countries.

3. In carrying out these tasks, the ad hoc expert group should take into account the results of intersessional activities related to monitoring, assessment and reporting led by countries, organizations and international and regional processes. Its reports should be made available as a contribution to the discussions at Forum country- and organization-led initiatives that are related to the present terms of reference. As relevant, the ad hoc expert group should also take into account the results of the work undertaken by Collaborative Partnership on Forests members on forest-related concepts, terminology and definitions.

Composition and participation

4. The ad hoc expert group shall be composed of 30 experts designated by Governments, six from each of the five United Nations regional groups.

5. The government-designated experts shall have well-recognized scientific and technical expertise in monitoring, assessment and reporting, and knowledge of the intergovernmental forest policy deliberations of IPF, IFF and the Forum.

6. Representatives of the United Nations Forum on Forests member States shall be allowed to participate in the first two days of the meeting of the ad hoc expert group and remain as observers for the last three days of the meeting.

7. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests shall be invited to make scientific and technical contributions to the work of the ad hoc expert group to support the work of the ad hoc expert group in a resource capacity.

8. Intergovernmental organizations and representatives of major groups, with relevant expertise, may participate in the meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as practices established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, IPF and IFF. They may be invited to make scientific and technical contributions.

Travel assistance

9. Travel support and a daily subsistence allowance at established United Nations rates will be provided to each of the government-designated experts, if the budget allows, with priority to developing countries, particularly least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition.

Officers

10. The chairman of the ad hoc expert group shall be elected from among the government-designated experts at its meeting.

Duration of work

11. The ad hoc expert group shall initiate its work after the third session of the Forum and complete its work at least three months in advance of the fourth session of the Forum.

Meeting

12. The ad hoc expert group will hold one meeting for up to five days before the end of 2003. It will also use electronic means of communication to the greatest extent possible. The ad hoc expert group meeting will be organized at a United Nations venue where meeting facilities are available, preferably in New York, taking into account cost-effectiveness. To the extent possible, the ad hoc expert group will hold its meeting back to back with the meeting of the ad hoc expert group on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

Proposals and recommendations for consideration by the Forum

13. The proposals and recommendations of the ad hoc expert group should be provided by consensus. In the absence of consensus, the report of the ad hoc expert group shall fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

Reports

14. The ad hoc expert group shall prepare its report, taking into consideration the views of all participants and contributions received, and shall submit its report to the Forum at its fourth session for consideration. The report shall specify the major outcomes of the ad hoc expert group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.

Secretariat

15. The Forum secretariat shall serve as the secretariat for the ad hoc expert group, supported by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

B
Ad hoc expert group on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies

Scope and work programme

16. The ad hoc expert group shall provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum for its work on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. The work of the ad hoc expert group should be undertaken within the context of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and relevant resolutions adopted by the Forum at its sessions, and should also consider, inter alia, related IPF/IFF proposals for action and outcomes of Forum sessions, including its reports.

Tasks

17. The ad hoc expert group will undertake the following specific tasks on finance:

Finance

(a) Consider previous initiatives on finance, including recommendations from the Croydon, Oslo and Pretoria workshops, as well as the relevant IPF/IFF proposals for action, background papers and strategy documents of Collaborative Partnership on Forests members;

(b) Assess the role and status of official development assistance (ODA) directed towards sustainable forest management and consider ways for enhancing its availability and effectiveness; in this regard, identify possible means to enhance developed countries' efforts to fulfil their commitments on ODA;

(c) Review the effectiveness of existing international financing for sustainable forest management, including methods and mechanisms, analyse opportunities, country-level gaps, limitations and donor and recipient priorities, as well as the contribution of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests towards financing sustainable forest management; propose measures to improve the effectiveness of that financing for enhancing the enabling environment at both the national and international levels and to attract increased financing from all sources;

(d) Explore the potential of new and innovative approaches to attract increased financing for sustainable forest management; discuss and make suggestions for expanded use of those approaches to address the need for financial

resources for financing sustainable forest management, including through national forest programmes or equivalent processes;

(e) Assess country experiences in the mobilization of financial resources to support sustainable forest management; in this regard, identify gaps in, and the potential and limitations of current financing sources and financial mechanisms in implementing sustainable forest management; further, propose approaches to enhance and more effectively use and mobilize national and international financial resources;

(f) Assess and consider the role of the private sector in financing sustainable forest management; in this regard, recommend measures to improve the enabling environment for private investment in sustainable forest management, at both the national and international levels, and encourage increased private resource flows to the forest sector, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

18. The ad hoc expert group will undertake the following specific tasks on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies:

Transfer of environmentally sound technologies

(a) Review and assess existing initiatives on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and knowledge diffusion for the promotion of sustainable forest management among countries and sectors and stakeholders, including through North-South, North-North and South-South cooperation and programmes of Collaborative Partnership on Forests members. This should include an analysis of incentives that promote and obstacles that inhibit the transfer of forest-related environmentally sound technologies between and/or within countries, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in both the private and public sectors;

(b) Recommend approaches to improve transfer of forest-related environmentally sound technologies. The recommendation may include the role of various policy instruments, such as concessional and preferential terms, public/private partnerships and research cooperation, as well as capacity-building in the use and application of current and emerging environmentally sound technologies, including remote sensing.

Composition and participation

19. The ad hoc expert group shall consist of 30 experts designated by Governments, six from each of the five United Nations regional groups.

20. The government-designated experts shall have well-recognized scientific and technical expertise in finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and knowledge of the intergovernmental forest policy deliberations of IPF, IFF and the Forum.

21. Representatives of the United Nations Forum on Forests member States shall be allowed to participate in the first two days of the meetings of the ad hoc expert group and remain as observers for the last three days of the meeting.

22. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests shall be invited to make scientific and technical contributions to the work of the ad hoc expert group to support the work of the ad hoc expert group in a resource capacity.

23. Intergovernmental organizations and representatives of major groups, with relevant expertise, may participate in the meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as practices established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, IPF and IFF. They may be invited to make scientific and technical contributions.

Travel assistance

24. Travel support and a daily subsistence allowance at established United Nations rates will be provided to each of the government-designated experts, if the budget allows, with priority to developing countries, particularly least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition.

Officers

25. The chairman of the ad hoc expert group shall be elected from among the government-designated experts at its meeting.

Duration of work

26. The ad hoc expert group shall initiate its work after the third session of the Forum and complete its work at least three months in advance of the fourth session of the Forum.

Meeting

27. The ad hoc expert group will hold one meeting for up to five days before the end of 2003. It will also use electronic means of communication to the greatest extent possible. The ad hoc expert group meeting will be organized at a United Nations venue where meeting facilities are available, preferably in New York, taking into account cost-effectiveness. To the extent possible, the ad hoc expert group will hold its meeting back to back with the meeting of the ad hoc expert group on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting.

Proposals and recommendations for consideration by the Forum

28. The proposals and recommendations of the ad hoc expert group should be provided by consensus. In the absence of consensus, the reports of the ad hoc expert group shall fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

Reports

29. The ad hoc expert group shall prepare its report, taking into consideration the views of all participants and contributions received, and shall submit its report to the Forum at its fourth session for consideration. The report shall specify major outcomes of the ad hoc expert group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.

Secretariat

30. The Forum secretariat shall serve as the secretariat for the ad hoc expert group, supported by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

C

Ad hoc expert group on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests

Scope and work programme

31. The ad hoc expert group shall provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum for its work on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests. The work of the ad hoc expert group should be undertaken within the context of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 and resolutions adopted by the Forum at its sessions, in particular those referring to the creation and scope of the ad hoc expert groups.

Tasks

32. The reports of the ad hoc expert groups on approaches and mechanisms for monitoring, assessment and reporting and on finance and transfer of environmentally sound technologies will serve as inputs to the work of this ad hoc expert group.

33. The ad hoc expert group will undertake the following specific tasks on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests:

(a) Assess existing regional and international binding and non-binding instruments and processes relevant to forests; the assessment should include, inter alia, analysis of complementarities, gaps and duplications, and should take into account Forum resolution 2/3 on the specific criteria for the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests;

(b) Consider reports prepared by countries, as referred to in the decision to which this annex is attached, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests members and the Forum secretariat, and outcomes of Forum sessions;

(c) Consider other outcomes of the international arrangement on forests, inter alia countries' efforts to implement the IPF/IFF proposals for action, other expert groups, Forum country- and organization-led initiatives and previous relevant initiatives, and forest-related work undertaken by the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(d) Review the relevant experiences of existing forest-related and other relevant organizations and agreements, including multilateral environmental agreements and regional conventions and processes, focusing on complementarities, gaps and duplications;

(e) Provide for the consideration of the Forum at its fifth session, a balanced range of options with respect to "consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests".

Composition and participation

34. The ad hoc expert group shall be composed of experts designated by Governments of the member States of the Forum.

35. The government-designated experts shall have well-recognized scientific and technical expertise on the forest regime and the Rio conventions and knowledge of the intergovernmental forest policy deliberations of IPF, IFF and the Forum.

36. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests shall be invited to make scientific and technical contributions to the work of the ad hoc expert group to support the work of the ad hoc expert group in a resource capacity.

37. Intergovernmental organizations and representatives of major groups, with relevant expertise, may participate in the meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as practices established by the Commission on Sustainable Development, IPF and IFF. They may be invited to make scientific and technical contributions.

Travel assistance

38. Travel support and a daily subsistence allowance at the established United Nations rates will be provided to one country expert from each developing country, as well as to one country expert from countries with economies in transition, to the maximum extent from the budget, supplemented by voluntary extrabudgetary contributions.

Officers

39. Two co-chairpersons of the ad hoc expert group shall be elected from among the government-designated experts at its meeting, one from a developing country and one from a developed country.

Duration of work

40. The ad hoc expert group shall initiate its work immediately after the fourth session of the Forum and complete its work at least three months in advance of the fifth session of the Forum.

Meeting

41. The ad hoc expert group will hold one meeting for up to five days. It will also use electronic means of communication to the greatest extent possible. The ad hoc expert group meeting will be organized at a United Nations venue where meeting facilities are available, preferably in New York, taking into account cost-effectiveness.

Proposals and recommendations for consideration by the Forum

42. The proposals and recommendations of the ad hoc expert group should be provided by consensus. In the absence of consensus, the reports of the ad hoc expert group shall fully reflect the diversity of views expressed.

Reports

43. The ad hoc expert group shall adopt a report at its meeting, for submission to the Forum at its fifth session. The report shall specify major outcomes of the ad hoc expert group's work, including proposals and recommendations for further consideration by the Forum.

Secretariat

44. The Forum secretariat shall serve as the secretariat for the ad hoc expert group, supported by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

C. Resolutions of the Forum brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

3. The following resolutions adopted by the Forum are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 3/1
Economic aspects of forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Taking note of the views exchanged by countries and major groups at its third session on the status of countries' efforts to implement the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals for action related to the economic aspects of forests, which identified progress, obstacles and lessons learned.

Highlighting the following lessons learned through the exchange of country experiences:

(a) Cross-sectoral policies, both at national and international levels, are necessary measures since policies in other sectors may often impact severely on sustainable forest management; the economic and other benefits of sustainable forest management should be mainstreamed in overall development policies;

(b) The accurate valuation of goods and environmental services provided by forests is essential for sustainable resource management;

(c) Clear and secure land tenure, effective forest law enforcement and governance are essential elements for the economic viability of sustainable forest management. Thus, examples and lessons learned in this regard should be effectively shared and utilized;

(d) Timely and accurate collection and dissemination of information on forest valuation, resources, demand, supply and prices are important elements for well-functioning and transparent markets for products derived from sustainably managed forests, support decision-making and promote sustainable forest management;

(e) Private sector investments in sustainable forest management are important recognizing that public funding continues to remain critical especially in developing countries. Partnerships between governments, private sector, local

communities and other sectors of the society are of importance in sustainable forest management;

(f) Noting the forest partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including forest law enforcement and governance, paid particular attention to the issue of forest law enforcement and governance, and taking into account the relevant decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session on partnership initiatives in this regard;

(g) Emphasizing that, in line with the commitments reached at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and consistent with the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and recognizing the common goal of all countries to attain sustainable forest management, and the importance of the means of implementation to this end, immediate action at all levels to facilitate the provision of financial resources, transfer and development of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building is required to help to achieve the actions listed below, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to support their efforts to achieve sustainable forest management,

1. *Urges* countries to integrate, within their priorities and capacities, sustainable forest management into their overall national poverty reduction and development strategies, especially through their national forest programme processes;

2. *Invites* the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to assist countries in their efforts to implement the pertinent IPF/IFF proposals for action in respect to the full cost internalization of both wood products and non-wood substitutes and to undertake market and economic analysis of their implications for forest management and development costs and for sustainable forest management, as well as in developing financial mechanisms that would help to develop new markets for environmental services as an important component of sustainable forest management;

3. *Calls upon* countries to take immediate action on domestic forest law enforcement and illegal international trade in forest products, including in forest biological resources, with the support of the international community, and provide human and institutional capacity-building related to the enforcement of national legislation in those areas;

4. *Invites* countries to take immediate action on domestic forest law enforcement, including, where appropriate, through regional processes, taking into full account their national conditions and priorities;

5. *Encourages* countries to create new voluntary partnerships to promote sustainable forest management actions such as the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and the Asia Forest Partnership, taking into account the relevant decisions in this regard adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session;

6. *Invites* countries to participate in the International Tropical Timber Organization voluntary case studies that assess export and import data, so as to help countries to identify gaps and discrepancies in countries' own data collection and

reporting systems and invites the International Tropical Timber Organization to report to the United Nations Forum on Forests upon the completion of that work;

7. *Requests* countries to enhance market access for forest products and services, understanding the special needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in ways that simultaneously promote trade and sustainable forest management; new efforts have to be made in relation to the development of new markets for environmental services, as an important component of sustainable forest management in line with pertinent IPF/IFF proposals for action; encourages Collaborative Partnership on Forests members to develop work on environmental services and potential markets and, in this regard, notes the work being undertaken by several Collaborative Partnership on Forests members on this subject;

8. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, in cooperation with others, to work on operationalizing the IPF/IFF proposals for action on voluntary certification of forest management and related voluntary labelling, with a view to promoting sustainable forest management in a way that does not create unnecessary barriers to international trade, is non-discriminatory, transparent and in accordance with commitments and obligations under relevant multilateral agreements; such work should focus on building country capacity and not favour or endorse any particular certification scheme;

9. *Urges* countries to include in their national forest programmes or other similar framework programme support for the empowerment of women, development of their entrepreneurial capacities and promotion of their participation in forest related decision-making processes at all levels;

10. *Urges* countries to foster greater involvement of local and indigenous communities in decision making and implementation on sustainable forest management and encourages countries to support broad-based participation and clarification of ownership rights in conformity with national legislation;

11. *Encourages* Collaborative Partnership on Forests members and other relevant actors to promote public awareness of the *Sourcebook on Funding Sustainable Forest Management* developed by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to consider whether and to what extent the *Sourcebook* meets the needs of intended users and to work with each other to update and improve this important resource;

12. *Encourages* countries and the international community, recognizing the importance of promoting the needs of small and medium-sized forest industries and their access to affordable and environmentally sound technologies, to support specific initiatives in this field, particularly in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition.

Resolution 3/2
Forest health and productivity

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Taking note of the exchange of views by countries and major groups at its third session on the status of country efforts to implement the Intergovernmental Panel on

Forests (IPF) proposals for action and on emerging issues related to forest health and productivity, in which progress, obstacles and lessons learned were identified,

Highlighting the following lessons learned through the exchange of country experiences:

(a) Forest health and productivity are affected by a variety of factors, including air pollution and climate change, wildfires, pests and diseases, water cycles, forest fragmentation, alien invasive species, overgrazing and drought;

(b) There has been promising progress in efforts at national and regional levels to monitor and address air pollution and its effects on forests;

(c) Climate change affects forest health, consequently may have adverse impacts on forest-dependent communities and poses a serious threat to, inter alia, forests in vulnerable ecosystems, small island developing States and coastal areas;

(d) Sustainable management promotes healthy forests and ecosystems that are more resilient to a variety of negative factors;

(e) Proactive national fire management strategies and programmes, in conjunction with international and regional collaboration, can improve forest fire prevention and response in terms of effective forest fire control;

(f) The restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forest ecosystems and measures to address forest fragmentation require integrated and participatory approaches and benefit from cross-sectoral collaboration;

(g) Taking effective measures in national forest programmes to improve forest health protection strategies and prevent pests and diseases, consistent with relevant provisions of the World Trade Organization has been shown to help reduce and more effectively respond to outbreaks;

(h) Alien invasive species can jeopardize native plants and animals and affect forest health and productivity, and addressing this issue in national forest programmes can be beneficial;

(i) Additional research, data collection and analysis, as well as information sharing, on factors affecting forest health and productivity can significantly improve understanding of their impacts and enhance the development of appropriate measures and early responses,

1. *Urges* countries to strengthen international cooperation in the areas of financial resources, transfer of environmentally sound technology and capacity-building, in particular, for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to maintain and enhance forest health and productivity through, inter alia, mainstreaming sustainable forest management in their poverty reduction strategies and/or national development programmes;

2. *Invites* members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations to facilitate regional, intergovernmental and international cooperation in order to assist countries, upon request, to develop effective ways to identify and assess the main factors affecting or threatening forest health;

3. *Encourages* countries, with the support of regional, intergovernmental and international organizations, to further develop cross-sectoral preventive measures and remedial action that reduce negative impacts on the health of forests;

4. *Also encourages* countries to develop, within their national forest programmes, forest protection strategies to reduce negative impacts on forest health and productivity, and to strengthen cross-sectoral bilateral, regional and international cooperation in order to further the control of the transboundary movement of pests and diseases, as well as other factors, consistent with World Trade Organization provisions;

5. *Further encourages* countries to develop forest fire management strategies, which may include community based fire management programmes, and to consider, in this context, regional and international cooperation;

6. *Encourages* countries to pursue integrated approaches to forest health and productivity in the context of sustainable forest management, including through strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration and mutually supportive national forest programmes and other national strategies relevant to forests;

7. *Also encourages* countries and regional and international organizations to continue to gather, analyse and widely disseminate reliable data and information on forest health, to promote international cooperation and to strengthen research in these areas; the use of voluntarily adopted criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management is helpful in this respect.

Resolution 3/3
Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling its resolution 1/1 on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in which it was decided that maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs would be discussed at the third session of the Forum,

Noting the close linkages between maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs and many other elements addressed by the Forum, such as forest health and productivity and economic aspects of forests, in particular the economic value of forest products and services,

Also noting the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which direct increased attention to the role of forests in poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Welcoming intersessional activities carried out in support of the Forum and, in this regard, noting the outcomes of the International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: The Way Forward (Guatemala City, 3-7 February 2003); the country-led initiative on lessons learned in monitoring, assessment and reporting on implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action (Viterbo, Italy, 17-20 March 2003); and the Experts Meeting on the Role of Planted Forests in Sustainable Forest Management (Wellington, New Zealand, 25-27 March 2003),

Recognizing that maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs requires national actions and international cooperation,

Taking note of the rich exchange of views by countries and major groups at its third session on the status of country efforts to implement the proposals for action of

the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and on lessons learned related to maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs,

Highlighting the following lessons learned through the exchange of country experiences:

(a) Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs means, inter alia, meeting present and future demands for wood and non-wood forest products and services within the framework of sustainable forest management;

(b) There has been a steady development of forest sector planning efforts at the national level, complemented by regional and global outlook studies for the forest sector, which provide valuable information that can assist countries in making long-term and comprehensive forest sector assessments;

(c) National forest programmes and other national forest-related strategies are useful tools to address sustained production of the full range of forest products and services at the national level;

(d) Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management are useful frameworks for the development of national forest policy and planning efforts;

(e) Cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration at the national, regional and global levels are necessary in order to address the under-valuation of forests and to achieve effective inter-sectoral cooperation for sustainable forest management;

(f) Sustainable forest management of all types of forest is essential in maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs;

(g) Sustainably managed forest plantations, including their role in restoring degraded lands and increasing forest cover, contribute to meeting present and future needs for timber and non-timber forest products and services;

(h) The process of forecasting long-term trends in forest goods and services is particularly challenging in developing countries, which often have a weak information base and a shortage of financial resources and institutional capacities;

(i) Secure land tenure and property rights are vital to the well-being of indigenous peoples and local communities that live in and around forests, and are important for maintaining forest cover;

(j) The involvement of major groups is important in maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs and, in particular, the participation and education of women and youth are vital contributions to the future delivery of sustainable forest management;

(k) There is an urgent need to combat deforestation and forest degradation by addressing the underlying causes,

1. *Urges* countries, in the context of their national development programmes, to strengthen efforts to combat deforestation and forest degradation, while reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in the areas of finance, transfer of environmentally sound technology and capacity-building for developing countries;

2. *Encourages* countries, within their capacities, to strengthen efforts to assess long-term trends in supply and demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services and to use the findings of these assessments in the development and implementation of their national forest programmes and strategies;

3. *Calls upon* the donor community, Collaborative Partnership on Forests members and other international organizations to assist countries, at their request, in strengthening their capacities for long-term strategic planning at the national level, inter alia, in data and information collection, analysis and dissemination;

4. *Encourages* relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to explore the possibilities for the most appropriate mechanisms for sourcing information related to forest cover, taking into account the need for all countries to have access to such information;

5. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue to conduct regular global forest resources assessments and global and regional forestry outlook studies that take into account a broad range of forest products and services;

6. *Encourages* countries to promote efforts towards afforestation and reforestation, including in marginal lands, wastelands and degraded lands; policies that are designed to promote forest plantations should be in accordance with the principles of sustainable forest management and should not significantly adversely affect a country's forest cover and composition;

7. *Also encourages* countries, within their capacities, to integrate criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management into national forest programmes on a voluntary basis so as to strengthen efforts to take into account the full range of forest products and services in long-term planning;

8. *Further encourages* countries, within their capacities, to consider the relevance of voluntarily adopted criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management to reporting on the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to maintaining forest cover;

9. *Urges* countries to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination in order to improve efforts to maintain forest cover;

10. *Encourages* countries to recognize the importance of maintaining forest cover in contributing to poverty eradication and the need to integrate forest issues into national poverty reduction and development strategies, especially in developing countries;

11. *Also encourages* countries to foster synergies between national forest programmes and other national strategies relevant to forests;

12. *Encourages* relevant stakeholders to participate actively in efforts aimed at maintaining forest cover, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities;

13. *Encourages* support, particularly in developing countries, for national programmes of education, communication and capacity-building regarding sustainable forest management among youth, in order to promote their involvement in maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs.

Resolution 3/4
Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling its resolution 1/1 on the multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for 2001-2005, in which it called for enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, inter alia, with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, as well as other relevant international and regional processes and organizations, institutions and instruments,

Recalling also the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular its goal of halving poverty by the year 2015 and the important contribution of sustainable forest management for the realization of this goal,

Welcoming the adoption of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in which forest issues are addressed in the context of sustainable development,

Noting with appreciation the forest partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, taking into account the relevant decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session on partnership initiatives,

Noting with appreciation also decision VI/22 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, specifically regarding the mutual supportiveness of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity of the Convention,

Welcoming the designation of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, as a new focal area of the Global Environment Facility,

Recalling the need for promoting public participation and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and in this regard welcoming the Forum's innovative multi-stakeholder dialogue, facilitating interaction with all major groups,

Expressing its appreciation to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests for its strong support of the work of the Forum and its member countries, and for its contributions to enhancing cooperation and coordination on forest issues, in particular the Collaborative Partnership on Forests members' individual and collective efforts to facilitate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests joint activities, including the recent work on the Sourcebook on Funding Sustainable Forest Management, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting, and efforts to collect and harmonize forest-related definitions,

Noting that the Collaborative Partnership on Forests was formed at the invitation of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2000/35 to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests and is made up of representatives

of the secretariats of relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and other relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, each with its own mandate, priorities and limited resources,

1. *Stresses* the need to further strengthen the United Nations Forum on Forests, with the support of Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, as the key intergovernmental mechanism for facilitating and coordinating implementation of sustainable forest management, through interactive exchange of experiences and lessons learned and policy cooperation, in particular focusing on obstacles and opportunities for advancing implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action;

2. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests members to continue their important work to support the United Nations Forum on Forests and its member countries and *encourages* Collaborative Partnership on Forests members to take concrete steps towards the establishment of partnerships between themselves and with Governments, as well as with other relevant stakeholders, for the practical implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, including through national forest programmes;

3. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue its efforts to streamline forest-related reporting;

4. *Urges* Governments to identify the IPF/IFF proposals for action to the governing bodies of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests as priority areas of action, consistent with national priorities and the mandate of those bodies;

5. *Calls upon* donors, countries and international financial institutions, as well as Collaborative Partnership on Forests members, to more effectively advance the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the areas of finance, trade, transfer of technology and capacity-building, including the mobilization and prioritization of financial resources and allocation of official development assistance in support of sustainable forest management;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat to collaborate closely, to the extent practicable, with relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments to improve information exchange and cooperation in areas of common concern;

7. *Welcomes* the request of the Convention on Biological Diversity to work collaboratively on issues of common interest and *requests* the Coordinator and Head of the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat to reflect the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests/United Nations Forum on Forests experiences on sustainable forest management at relevant meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

8. *Invites* member States of the United Nations Forum on Forests and Collaborative Partnership on Forests members to provide their views by the end of February 2004 to the Forum secretariat on the following issues and *requests* the secretariat to submit a compilation of those views to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its fourth session:

(i) Clarifying the concept of the ecosystem approach and the concept of sustainable forest management;

(ii) Management, sustainable use and benefit-sharing of forest biological diversity;

(iii) The relationship between IPF/IFF proposals for action and the activities of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity;

the outcome of the discussion on which issues at the fourth session of the Forum will be provided to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for information; in this regard, *also invites*:

(i) Organization of a country- and organization-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the issues set out above;

(ii) Participation of forest experts in the relevant Convention on Biological Diversity meetings and conferences;

9. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate and respective operational programmes and strategies, to give due consideration to financing the projects on, inter alia, combating deforestation and forest degradation, forest conservation and the protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems, rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover, rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests;

10. *Emphasizes* the necessity of continuing to closely collaborate with the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, in particular as regards the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

11. *Encourages* countries to mainstream sustainable forest management in their national poverty reduction strategies and national development programmes and to foster linkages between national forest programmes and other national strategies that are relevant to forests, thereby enhancing national cross-sectoral coordination;

12. *Invites* representatives of various regional institutions, bodies and processes to participate in the Forum's discussions on lessons learned in the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action and encourages further cooperation on sustainable forest management at the subregional and regional levels, as appropriate;

13. *Requests* the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests to facilitate intersessional activities, such as country- and organization-led initiatives in support of the work of the Forum, and invites Collaborative Partnership on Forests members to support these initiatives, as appropriate.

Resolution 3/5
Strengthening the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, particularly paragraph 10 to that effect that the secretariat should service the United Nations Forum on Forests and support the Collaborative Partnership on Forests,

Also recalling its multi-year programme of work and related decisions and resolutions, particularly in the context of the preparation of its fourth and fifth sessions, at which it will, inter alia, consider the outcome of the ad hoc expert group on consideration with a view to recommending the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests,

Considering the significance and the magnitude of the tasks involved,

Taking note of the report by the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its third session on the status of the secretariat human resources,

1. *Urges* countries and organizations to provide voluntary extrabudgetary contributions to the trust fund for the purpose of strengthening the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests for this important endeavour;

2. *Requests* the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat to expedite the work of identifying and proposing a process within the time frame provided to the secretariat;

3. *Also requests* the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat to mobilize the necessary human, financial and technical resources.

D. Decisions of the Forum brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following decisions adopted by the Forum are brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 3/1
Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations

The United Nations Forum on Forests decides to accord observer status to the following intergovernmental organizations:

(a) International Network for Bamboo and Rattan;

(b) International Centre for Research in Agroforestry;

(c) Secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low Forest Cover Countries.

Decision 3/2
Format for voluntary reporting to the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling decision 2/1, adopted at its second session, entitled "Format for voluntary reporting to the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests", and the format prepared by its secretariat pursuant to that decision,

Noting with appreciation the following initiatives related to monitoring, assessment and reporting on forests: the International Expert Meeting on Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on the Progress Toward Sustainable Forest Management, hosted by the Government of Japan in Yokohama in November 2001; the initiative on "Lessons Learned in Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting on Implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action", hosted by the Government of Italy in Viterbo in March 2003; the "International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: the Way Forward", hosted by the Government of Guatemala in Guatemala City in February 2003; and the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting,

Having highlighted, through the exchange of views, the importance of reporting on implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action as well as of the benefits to countries of reporting, and of continuing to work to harmonize and streamline forest-related reporting so as to lessen the burden upon countries,

1. *Requests* its secretariat, in order to assist countries in preparing their voluntary reports, to develop a suggested format to serve as a basis for countries to use in reporting on their implementation of the relevant IPF/IFF proposals for action at its fourth session, taking into account the views and relevant work of Collaborative Partnership on Forests members and bearing in mind the following principles:

(a) The format should be simple, streamlined and flexible;

(b) The format should cover the thematic issues of the fourth session of the Forum as well as the common items and cross-cutting issues;

(c) The format should take into account the results of the above-mentioned country-led initiatives and conferences, as appropriate;

(d) The format should be made available in sufficient time to allow countries to prepare their reports;

2. *Urges* countries and the international community to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening their capacity to provide voluntary reports.

Decision 3/3
Documentation considered by the United Nations Forum on Forests at its third session

The United Nations Forum on Forests takes note of documents E/CN.18/2003/2 and Add.1-6 and E/CN.18/2003/3-8.[1]

[1] For the titles, see annex.

Chapter II
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

5. The United Nations Forum on Forests held its third session at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 15 March 2003 and, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/300 of 26 July 2002, at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 26 May to 6 June 2003. The Forum held 13 plenary meetings (1st to 13th).

6. The session was opened by the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests who read out a statement on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

7. The Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests made a statement.

8. The Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests also made a statement.

B. Attendance

9. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the Forum is composed of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies with full and equal participation. Representatives of the following States attended the session:

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syriar Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

10. The following United Nations offices and organs were represented:

Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme.

11. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented:

International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Bank, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Trade Organization.

12. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was represented.

13. The European Community was represented as an observer.

14. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Center for International Forestry Research, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan, International Tropical Timber Organization, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low Forest Cover Countries, World Agroforestry Centre.

15. The treaty body secretariats for the following Conventions were represented:

Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

16. A number of non-governmental organizations were also represented.

C. Election of officers

17. The officers of the Forum for its third session, as elected at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 15 March 2002 and on 26 May 2003, were as follows:

Chairman:
Hossein Moeini Meybodi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Vice-Chairmen:
Gustavo Ainchil (Argentina)
Conceição Ferreira (Portugal)
Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda)

Vice-Chairman-cum Rapporteur:
Péter Csóka (Hungary)

D. Adoption of the agenda

18. At its 2nd meeting, on 26 May 2003, the Forum adopted its provisional agenda for the session, as contained in document E/CN.18/2003/1, as amended during the discussion. The agenda, as amended, was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
   (a) Progress in implementation:
      (i) Economic aspects of forests;
      (ii) Forest health and productivity;
      (iii) Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs;

(b) Means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management) as a cross-cutting issue, considered in the context of sub-items 3 (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) above.

4. Common items for each session:

(a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue;

(b) Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination;

(c) Country experience and lessons learned;

(d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation;

(e) Intersessional work, including further discussion concerning the ad hoc expert groups;

(f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting;

(g) Promoting public participation;

(h) National forest programmes;

(i) Trade;

(j) Enabling environment.

5. Other matters.

6. Dates and venue of the fourth session of the Forum.

7. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum.

8. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session.

E. Documentation

19. The documents before the Forum at its third session are listed in the annex.

F. Establishment of working groups and designation of their chairmen

20. At its 10th meeting, on 2 June, the Forum established two working groups at its third session. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Forum designated Mr. Gustavo Ainchil (Argentina), Vice-Chairman of the Forum, to chair Working Group I on economic aspects of forests, Ms. Conceição Ferreira (Portugal), Vice-Chairman of the Forum, to chair Working Group I on forest health and productivity and Mr. Péter Csóka (Hungary), Vice-Chairman of the Forum, to chair Working Group II on maintaining forest cover and on the voluntary reporting format.

G. Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations

21. At its 2nd meeting, the Forum decided to grant observer status to the intergovernmental organizations listed in document E/CN.18/2003/12 (see chapter I, section D, decision 3/1).

Chapter III

Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests

22. The Forum held a general discussion on agenda item 3 at its 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th meetings, on 28 and 30 May and 2 June 2003. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

Letter dated 3 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2003/10)

Note verbale dated 23 April 2003 from the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2003/11)

Report of the Secretary-General on economic aspects of forests (E/CN.18/2003/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementation: forest health and productivity (E/CN.18/2003/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs (E/CN.18/2003/8)

Economic aspects of forests
(Item 3 (a) (i))

23. At the 8th meeting, on 30 May 2003, the representative of the World Bank made an introductory statement with regard to document E/CN.18/2003/7.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Greece (on behalf of the European Union, its acceding countries and Turkey), India, the Republic of Korea, El Salvador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Brazil and Indonesia.

25. At the 11th meeting, on 2 June, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Colombia, China, Togo, Italy, Japan, Finland, Malaysia, Ecuador, South Africa, Norway, Australia, Argentina, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Switzerland, the United States of America, Congo, Chile and Turkey.

Panel discussion

26. At the 8th meeting, the Forum held a panel discussion on economic aspects of forests. Mr. Markku Simula from Indufor, Finland, was invited to act as Facilitator for the panel discussion.

27. At the same meeting, presentations were made by the following panellists: Mr. Yilmuz Akyuz, Director of the Division of Globalization and Development Strategies of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Ms. Maud Dlomo, Director of Water Affairs and Forestry of South Africa, Mr. Manoel Sobral Filho, Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization,

Mr. Alchim Steiner, Director-General of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Mr. Marvin Brown, Director of Private Forest Land Management from the American Forest and Paper Association. A dialogue with the panellists ensued, in which the delegations of Canada, Senegal, Egypt, New Zealand and the Russian Federation participated.

Action taken by the Forum

Economic aspects of forests

28. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, the Vice-Chairman of the Forum and Chairman of Working Group I on economic aspects of forests, Mr. Gustavo Ainchil (Argentina), reported on the outcome of negotiations held under his chairmanship and introduced a draft resolution entitled "Economic aspects of forests", which was contained in an informal paper.

29. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 3/1).

Forest health and productivity
(Item 3 (a) (ii))

30. At the 7th meeting, on 28 May 2003, the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations made an introductory statement with regard to document E/CN.18/2003/5.

31. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Greece (on behalf of the European Union, its acceding countries and Turkey), Morocco (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Indonesia, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, China, Colombia, Poland, India, Mexico, Canada, Malaysia, Argentina, Australia, Peru, Brazil, the United States of America, Cuba, Japan, New Zealand, Finland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ecuador, Guatemala and France.

Action taken by the Forum

Forest health and productivity

32. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, the Vice-Chairman of the Forum and Chairman of Working Group I on forest health and productivity, Ms. Conceição Ferreira (Portugal), reported on the outcome of negotiations held under her chairmanship and introduced a draft resolution entitled "Forest health and productivity", which was contained in an informal paper.

33. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 3/2).

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs
(Item 3 (a) (iii))

34. At the 10th meeting, on 2 June, the Chairman made an introductory statement.

35. At the same meeting, the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests introduced document E/CN.18/2003/8.

36. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Greece (on behalf of the European Union, its acceding countries and Turkey), Fiji (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), Congo, New Zealand, Togo, Indonesia, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Colombia, Turkey, the United States of America, Malaysia, Canada, Switzerland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, India, Argentina, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Lesotho, Poland, Egypt, Ecuador and Saudi Arabia. The representative of the secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low Cover Forest Countries also made a statement.

Action taken by the Forum

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

37. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, the Vice-Chairman of the Forum and Chairman of Working Group II, Mr. Péter Csóka (Hungary), reported on the outcome of negotiations held under his chairmanship and introduced a draft resolution entitled "Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs", which was contained in an informal paper.

38. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 3/3).

Documentation considered by the Forum

39. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Forum took note of the documentation submitted by the Secretariat under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 3/3).

Chapter IV
Common items for each session

40. The Forum held a general discussion on agenda item 4 at meetings of its working groups and at its 4th , 5th , 6th , 9th , 11th and 12th plenary meetings, on 27, 28 and 30 May, and 2 and 3 June 2003. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2003/2)

Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the forest workers and trade unions major group (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.1)

Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the youth and children major group (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.2)

Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the forest business and industry major group (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.3)

Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the scientific and technological community: science and technology: building the future of the world's forests (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.4)

Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the women's major group (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.5)

Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper contributed by the small forest owners major group: building partnerships for sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.6)

Note by the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2003/6)

Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2003 (E/CN.18/2003/INF.1)

Note by the Secretariat on intersessional work, including further discussion concerning the ad hoc expert groups (E/CN.18/2003/3)

Note by the Secretariat on a format for voluntary reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its third session (E/CN.18/2003/4)

Letter dated 1 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2003/9 and Corr.1)

Multi-stakeholder dialogue
(Item 4 (a))

41. The Forum held its multi-stakeholder dialogue at its 4th and 5th meetings, on 27 May.

42. At the 4th meeting, the Chairman made an opening statement.

43. At the same meeting, the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests introduced document E/CN.18/2003/2 and Add.1-6.

44. Also at the 4th meeting, Ms. Natalie Hufnagel, the representative of the small forest landowners major group served as facilitator and made introductory remarks.

Dialogue on forest health and productivity

45. Also at the 4th meeting, major group presentations on forest health and productivity were made by the representatives of the scientific and technological community and the women's major group, and were followed by a dialogue in which the representatives of Finland, Austria, Senegal, Italy, Colombia, Canada, Portugal, Germany, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, India, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations and the secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low Forest Cover Countries participated.

Dialogue on economic aspects of forests and maintaining forest cover

46. At the 4th meeting, major group presentations on economic aspects of forests were made by the representatives of the indigenous people's organizations and forest owners.

47. At the same meeting, major group presentations on maintaining forest cover were made by the representatives of youth and the environmental non-governmental organizations.

48. Also at the same meeting, a dialogue ensued in which the representatives of Lesotho, Finland, Austria, Norway, Belgium, Friends of the Earth International/Forest People's Programme, New Zealand, Canada and Peru participated.

Open dialogue

49. At the 5th meeting, on 27 May, Ms. Linda Mossop (South Africa) served as facilitator and made introductory remarks.

50. At the same meeting, the Forum then held an open dialogue in which representatives of the following countries, organizations and groups participated: Senegal, Colombia, Canada, India, Zimbabwe, Norway, workers/trade unions major group, scientific and technological community major group, Global Forest Coalition, United States of America, International Tropical Timber Organization, Finland, Chile, World Rain Forest Movement, Islamic Republic of Iran, New Zealand, Sweden, Friends of the Earth International/Forest People's Programme, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Brazil, Australia, youth major group, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Bank, Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Case studies

51. At the 5th meeting, the representatives of the scientific and technological community, the Women's Caucus and the Forest Owner Association of Kempten presented case studies on forest health and productivity, maintaining forest cover and economic aspects of forests, respectively.

52. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, the Forum agreed to include in its report a summary by the Chairman of the multi-stakeholder dialogue, contained in document E/CN.18/2003/CRP.1. The summary reads as follows:

"1. The Chairman of the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, Mr. Hossein Moeini Meybodi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, opened the multi-stakeholder dialogue, remarking that the dialogue with major groups had evolved from purely questions about involvement to questions of substance and that it was now clear that major groups provided significant value to discussion from the local to the international levels.

"2. The participation for the first time of women and youth and children, along with six other major groups,[1] was noted with appreciation and government representatives considered the trend of increased major group representativeness was encouraging. Representatives of major groups presented a synthesis of lessons learned and recommendations upon which they found common ground for each of the three elements being addressed at the third session of the Forum: forest health and productivity, economic aspects on forests and maintaining forest cover.

"3. Several specific recommendations and issues surfaced during the presentation and discussion on forest health and productivity. A first challenge was that there was as yet no universally accepted definition of forest health. A suggested definition was put forward: 'Forest health is a measure of a forest ecosystem's capacity to supply and allocate water, nutrients and energy in ways that increase or maintain ecosystem productivity while maintaining resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses'. Government representatives highlighted the need to incorporate diversity, in all its aspects — biodiversity, and social and economic diversity. Further, the need for mechanisms of policy coordination across issues such as biodiversity, agriculture and climate change on forest health and productivity policy was raised. Representatives of major groups and of governments noted the importance of investing in long-term monitoring assessment and reporting efforts, including harmonized early warning systems. Finally, the need to improve information on forest health and productivity, including both modern and indigenous traditional knowledge and technology, with regard to access, collection, analysis and dissemination of reliable information and capacity-building was highlighted.

"4. In the discussion on economic aspects of forests, it was agreed that sustainable forest management must be economically viable, environmentally rational and socially responsible and should respect wood and non-wood products, services and values, and that negative externalities should be internalized as an actual cost. The economic benefits of sustainable forest management must be clear to all stakeholders, including Governments. Accordingly, Governments and major groups should take full advantage of current cost-benefit analysis tools, and other benefits of economic research and technology. It was recommended that Governments should recognize and

[1] The major groups are: women; youth and children; workers and trade unions; the scientific and technological community; indigenous people's organizations; environmental non-governmental organizations; local authorities; small forest landowners; and business and industry. Local authorities have no focal point and nominations for this voluntary position are welcome.

respect the rights of forest-dependent peoples on issues of resource sharing, land ownership, participation in forest decision-making, management, assessment and reporting, prior informed consent and other rights as recognized in article 8 (j), of the Convention on Biological Diversity, inter alia. Investment in capacity-building that facilitated forest-dependent people's participation in forest policy-making, such as support of forest-dependent people associations, was promoted. Another requirement for economic viability was clear and secure land tenure. The benefits of cross-sectoral national forest programmes and the importance of forest law enforcement, governance and trade were underlined. Finally, the importance of transparency of decision-making, market mechanisms and positive examples such as corporate responsibility programmes was recognized.

"5. In the discussion on maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs, the strong link between this issue and economic aspects of forests was observed, especially in two aspects: (i) economic viability of sustainable forest management, such as resources sharing, was crucial and (ii) the forest needs of future generations included timber, non-timber goods, and social, economic, spiritual and environmental needs. Business and research were encouraged to increase investment in forest productivity and supply chain research. The importance of disseminating existing research and tools dealing with valuation of forest goods and services and, based on that information, of long-term national-level strategic planning was underscored. Also in this context, social criteria, strong at the regional level, such as within the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, should also be introduced at the national level. The outcomes of the meeting on monitoring, assessment and reporting, held in Viterbo, Italy and the meeting on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, held in Guatemala City were mentioned positively and commended to delegates.

"6. The common issues identified across all three elements, that appeared throughout the day's discussions included the need to:

- Consider forest policy issues cross-sectorally;
- Increase recognition of non-timber forest values, including social, cultural, economic and environmental values;
- Implement monitoring, assessment and reporting of traditional and modern information on forest health and productivity and forest valuation;
- Promote capacity-building on sustainable forest management at the local level and in forest policy decision-making for effective participation;
- Employ mechanisms to enable participation of the full range of stakeholders;
- Develop national forest programmes in a participative manner to incorporate the above-mentioned elements;
- Address the resource limitations for undertaking effectively the above-mentioned tasks.

"7. The Chairman closed the morning session, noting the positive inputs thus far received. He highlighted the limitations countries faced in terms of resources, and the role major groups could play in implementation. In addition, he re-emphasized the need to integrate environmental needs and pressing economic and social needs and that a cross-sectoral approach was needed for successful sustainable forest management.

"8. The afternoon session was opened by the Vice-Chair, Ms. Conceição Ferreira, and focused on six issues of vital concern to major groups: participation in national forest programmes; women and sustainable forest livelihoods; cross-sectoral policies; land tenure; non timber forest values; and capacity-building.

"9. Major groups were interested in how Governments involved civil society in national forest programmes. Also raised was the issue of how the Collaborative Partnership on Forests members encouraged participation in national forest programme development. Government representatives noted that links between major groups and national forest programmes were often made by means of the provision of public extension services to major groups organizations to facilitate local national forest programme implementation. Other examples of public involvement were local, district, regional and nationwide consultation meetings, workshops, congresses, reviews, resource sharing and several other formal mechanisms for participation. Many Governments also often encouraged village forest committees to develop microplans, which major groups encouraged, given that those microplans fostered effective bottom-up participation.

"10. The representative of FAO informed the plenary meeting that civil society participation was encouraged in the National Forest Programme Facility through small grants for local projects, increased access to information and other grassroots initiatives. The representative of the World Bank stated that the multi-donor Program on Forests (PROFOR), which the World Bank hosted, would appoint a management group including, on a rotational basis, one civil society representative. PROFOR would also sponsor consultations within the countries it would support.

"11. Representatives of Governments and major groups alike highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral forest policies. Intergovernmental organizations and agencies such as FAO, the Center for International Forestry Research and the International Tropical Timber Organization were recognized for their key role in encouraging intersectoral forest policies. Key projects were highlighted that focused national forest policy cross-sectorally through, among other methods, (i) easement for conversion prevention, (ii) forest landscape restoration, allowing a range of land use values and (iii) direct grants to forest owners for forest restoration.

"12. Representatives of major groups noted the importance of supporting the development of sustainable forest livelihoods, especially for women and other forest-dependent peoples. Government representatives echoed that concern, commenting that progress was being made in gaining greater participation of women in forest management and ownership.

"13. Representatives of governments and major groups agreed that secure, clear, legally recognized individual and collective land tenure rights and systems were vital for implementing sustainable forest management. Government representatives noted that many national land tenure systems were in the process of becoming more rationally structured, such as from being based on agriculture to being forest based, but that much more work remained to be done. Thus, while all agreed upon the need for clear and secure land tenure, more resources could be devoted to ensuring clear and secure land tenure nationally and locally.

"14. For sustainable forest management to be economically viable, such as through compensation of forest-dependent peoples, the monetary value of forests was important. However, social and environmental non-timber forest values were just as important and the view was expressed that one of the best ways to capture non-monetary values was through a rights-based approach. Government representatives emphasized that land-use values changed over time and major group representatives urged that government structures should be sensitive and flexible enough to recognize all the values of forest lands, especially the needs of those who are socially and economically dependent on particular forest lands.

"15. Capacity-building, communication, information and training in sustainable forest management techniques, as well as participatory policy-making, are key to sustainable forest management, especially for major groups in developing countries and for underrepresented major groups, and are worth governmental investment. The importance of sustainable forest management awareness-building among youth and children, the future forest managers, was highlighted. Positive government and intergovernmental organization examples included fellowship programmes and the establishment of interest networks. The importance of the applied use of innovative forest research was also emphasized.

"16. The problems and benefits of large-scale monoculture tree plantations were discussed. Generally, it was agreed that the establishment of plantations must be carefully thought out and their use weighed, with a broad view of the costs and benefits to all stakeholders, though some participants continued to raise serious concerns.

"17. The establishment and clear communication of detailed mechanisms at the national and local levels for implementing nearly universally agreed upon yet still slippery policy issues, such as civil society participation and clear land tenure, were presented as a challenge. The clarification and communication of those mechanisms deserved the full resources of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and major groups.

"18. Finally, three case studies of positive experiences were presented at the end of the multi-stakeholder dialogue. The representative of the scientific and technology group presented a case study, related to forest health and productivity, on the effects of increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and ozone on forest quality and the implications of resulting pest activity.[2] The

[2] The Aspen Free-Air Carbon Dioxide Enrichment (FACE) project, Rhinelander, Wisconsin, United States of America. Paper by K. Percy and D. Karnosky, 2003.

representative of the women's group highlighted a project in Ghana for maintaining forest cover that established community wood lots and introduced reforestation campaigns, thereby increasing forest cover and increasing women's quality of life. The experience of the Forest Owners Association in Kempten, Germany was presented. It had succeeded in making sustainable forest management economically viable for small-scale forest owners by helping forest owners realize gains through marketing of their forest products and services 'from the region, for the region'.

"19. The Vice-Chair noted that the day's discussions had been useful for the deliberations of the week. She welcomed the involvement of major groups that had shown themselves to be such willing, positive partners. Key issues highlighted had included the benefits of restoring natural forests, the significance of economic, social and environmental expectations for future forest cover, capacity-building and effective participation in decision-making. She encouraged all Governments to take into serious account the day's discussions in the coming deliberations."

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (Item 4 (b))

53. At its 6th meeting on 28 May 2003, the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests made a statement and introduced document E/CN.18/2003/6.

54. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests made an introductory statement with regard to document E/CN.18/2003/INF.1.

55. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Greece (on behalf of the European Union, its acceding countries and Turkey), Japan, Senegal, India, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, Norway, Malaysia, Togo, Finland, the United States of America, Australia, New Zealand and Egypt. The representative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) also made a statement.

Panel discussion on regional initiatives

56. At its 9th meeting, on 30 May 2003, the Forum held a panel discussion on regional initiatives and heard a statement by the Chairman.

57. At the same meeting, presentations were made by the following panellists: Mr. Virgilo Mauricio Viana (Amazonas Perspective), Ms. Liza Ivanova Gonzalez de Hodgson (Central American Perspective), Mr. Peter Mayer and Mr. Christopher Prins (European Perspective).

58. A dialogue ensued, in which the following delegations participated: Greece (on behalf of the European Union, its acceding countries and Turkey), Japan, Sweden, Senegal, Norway, Hungary, Congo, Brazil, Switzerland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Action taken by the Forum

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

59. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, the Chairman introduced an informal paper containing a draft resolution entitled "Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination", which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

60. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 3/4).

Intersessional work, including further discussion concerning the ad hoc expert groups
(Item 4 (e))

Action taken by the Forum

Intersessional work by ad hoc expert groups

61. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, the Chairman introduced an informal paper containing a draft decision entitled "Intersessional work by ad hoc expert groups", which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

62. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Serbia and Montenegro and the Russian Federation.

63. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary made a statement regarding possible conference servicing implications of the draft decision.

64. Also at the 13th meeting, the Forum approved the draft decision, as amended during the discussion, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision III).

Dates and venues of the meetings of the ad hoc expert groups

65. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests made a statement regarding possible dates and venues for the meetings of the ad hoc expert groups.

66. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of India, Switzerland and New Zealand.

Monitoring, assessment and reporting
(Item 4 (f))

67. At the 11th meeting on 2 June, the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests introduced document E/CN.18/2003/4.

68. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Greece (on behalf of the European Union, its acceding countries and Turkey), Switzerland, Japan, the United States of America, Senegal, Brazil and Congo.

69. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low Forest Cover Countries made a statement.

70. At the 12th meeting, on 3 June, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Indonesia.

Action taken by the Forum

Format for voluntary reporting to the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

71. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, the Vice-Chairman of the Forum and Chairman of Working Group II, Mr. Péter Csóka (Hungary), reported on the outcome of consultations held under his chairmanship and introduced a draft decision entitled "Format for voluntary reporting to the fourth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests", which was contained in an informal paper.

72. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 3/2).

Documentation considered by the Forum

73. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Forum took note of the documentation under agenda item 4 (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 3/3).

Chapter V
Other matters

74. The Forum discussed agenda item 5, entitled "Other matters" at its 7th and 9th meetings, on 28 and 30 May 2003, and heard a statement by the Coordinator and Head of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the status of the secretariat and the trust fund.

75. At the 7th meeting, on 28 May, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Senegal.

76. At the 9th meeting, on 30 May, statements were made by the representatives of Switzerland, Greece (on behalf of the European Union), Brazil (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the United States of America and the Russian Federation.

Action taken by the Forum

Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

77. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, Mr. Gede Ngurah Swadjaya (Indonesia), facilitator of informal consultations held under item 5, reported on the outcome of the negotiations and introduced and revised a draft resolution entitled "Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests", which was contained in an informal paper.

78. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America.

79. Also at the same meeting, the Forum approved the draft resolution, as revised, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution).

Strengthening the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

80. At the 13th meeting, on 6 June, Mr. Gede Ngurah Swadjaya (Indonesia), facilitator of informal consultations under item 5, reported on the outcome of negotiations and introduced a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests", which was contained in an informal paper.

81. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 3/5).

Chapter VI

Date and venue for the fourth session of the Forum

82. At its 13th meeting, on 6 June, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Forum decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council for adoption a draft decision entitled "Date and venue for the fourth session of the Forum" (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I).

Chapter VII
Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum

83. At its 13th meeting, on 6 June, the Forum had before it an informal paper containing a provisional agenda for its fourth session, which it decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II).

Chapter VIII
Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session

84. At its 13th meeting, on 6 June 2003, the Forum adopted the draft report on its third session (E/CN.18/2003/L.1), as introduced by the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, Mr. Péter Csóka (Hungary).

Annex

List of documents

Document number	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.18/2003/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.18/2002/2	4 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General on the multi-stakeholder dialogue
E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.1	4 (a)	*Addendum*: discussion paper contributed by the forest workers and trade unions major group
E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.2	4 (a)	*Addendum*: discussion paper contributed by the youth and children major group
E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.3	4 (a)	*Addendum*: discussion paper contributed by the forest business and industry major group
E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.4	4 (a)	*Addendum*: discussion paper contributed by the scientific and technological community: science and technology: building the future of the world's forests
E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.5	4 (a)	*Addendum*: discussion paper contributed by the women's major group
E/CN.18/2003/2/Add.6	4 (a)	*Addendum*: discussion paper contributed by the small forest owners major group: building partnerships for sustainable forest management
E/CN.18/2003/3	4 (e)	Note by the Secretariat on intersessional work, including further discussion concerning the ad hoc expert groups
E/CN.18/2003/4	4 (f)	Note by the Secretariat on a format for voluntary reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its third session
E/CN.18/2003/5	3 (a) (ii)	Report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementation: forest health and productivity
E/CN.18/2003/6	4 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination

Document number	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.18/2003/7	3 (a) (i)	Report of the Secretary-General on economic aspects of forests
E/CN.18/2003/8	3 (a) (iii)	Report of the Secretary-General on maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs
E/CN.18/2003/9 and Corr.1	4 (f)	Letter dated 1 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.18/2003/10	3	Letter dated 3 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.18/2002/11	3	Note verbale dated 23 April 2003 from the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General
E/CN.18/2003/12	2	Note by the Secretariat on accreditation of intergovernmental organizations to the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2003/L.1	8	Draft report of the Forum on its third session
E/CN.18/2003/CRP.1	4 (a)	Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue
E/CN.18/2003/INF.1	4 (b)	Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2003

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